

ACT/037/027

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY  
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UNION CARBIDE CORPORATION

Wilson-Silverbell Mines

Sections 15, 21, 22, T. 32S., T. 26E.

San Juan County, Utah

ACT/037/027  
November 21, 1978



#### LOCATION:

Union Carbide Corporation is operating an underground random room and pillar uranium mine in Sections 15, 21, and 22, Township 32 South, Range 26 East, San Juan County, Utah. The mine is situated on flat improved rangeland near agricultural land. Consult the enclosed maps for site location.

The application is for two underground shaft mines that are adjacent to each other. Uranium ore is mined from the Salt Wash sandstone member of the Morrison Formation. Mining activities commenced prior to May of 1975.

#### SOILS AND GEOLOGY:

Soils are relatively deep and probably have agricultural potential. Unfortunately soils were not stockpiled prior to the commencement of mining. Union Carbide will attempt to revegetate the spoil material without re-spreading soil over the material.

#### HYDROLOGY:

There are no perennial streams immediately adjacent to the mine site. Infiltration potential of the natural soils of the area is high, resulting in low runoff potential. Impacts to surface hydrology is expected to be minimal.

The mine presently discharges into series of evaporation ponds. The ponds will be reclaimed upon termination of operations. Mine discharge will cease.

#### ECOLOGY:

Pinyon Pine and Juniper comprise the overstory and tends to be patchy in the area. The natural understory is comprised of the sagebrush-native grass community. The area is used for wheat and bean farming.

The area has limited value for wildlife habitat.

#### STRUCTURES AND FACILITIES:

Structures and facilities that presently exist include the following:

- a. A through access road maintained by San Juan County.



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- b. Two vertical shafts.
- c. Three vent shafts.
- d. Two waste dumps.
- e. Shop and office facilities.
- f. Five evaporation ponds for mine discharge.
- g. Power transmission facilities.
- h. Access roads to vent shafts and ponds.

Possible future facilities include two additional vent shafts.

MINING AND RECLAMATION:

Union Carbide has committed to the following:

During Operations:

- a. Mining will be conducted in a safe, sound technical and prudent miner-like manner.
- b. Future site expansion will salvage topsoil in advance of development and it will be stored in stabilized and revegetated stockpiles.
- c. New access roads will be constructed in a manner agreeable to the surface owners and to allow for proper drainage.

After Operations:

- a. Surface debris, scrap metal, discarded wood, and unusable buildings will be buried or removed from the site.
- b. Portals, shafts, and ventilation holes will be sealed to prevent unauthorized or accidental entry.
- c. Dumps, pads and other disturbed sites will be stabilized by rounding off outer edges, reducing the slope of the rock faces and regrading drainage contours.



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- d. Compacted surfaces will be scarified, seeded with a grass-shrub seed mixture in the fall, and drag covered.
- e. Water evaporation ponds will be reclaimed.
- f. The main road through the site will be left open for access.
- g. Reclaimed areas will be monitored and reseeded if necessary.

IMPACTS:

The mine facilities were inexistence prior to the Utah Mined Land Reclamation Act. The Reclamation Plan will eliminate safety hazards and reduce visual and environmental impacts.

SURETY ESTIMATE:

Surety for this operation was estimated to be \$28,332.37 which includes 5% inflation for a period of 14 years, the expected life of the mine. The surety includes the following work:

- a. Sealing of two vertical shafts and five ventilation shafts.
- b. Removal of structures and equipment.
- c. Removal of trash and debris.
- d. Regrading of spoil piles.
- e. Scarification and seeding of disturbed areas.
- f. Grading of drainage contours and water bars.
- g. Supervising labor.
- h. Removal of hazardous substances.
- i. Reseeding and monitoring if necessary.
- j. 5% inflation.

A copy of the reclamation surety estimate is enclosed.



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APPLICATION HISTORY:

June 26, 1978

Application received (Dated June 21, 1978).

April 12, 1978

Initial Division Inspection.

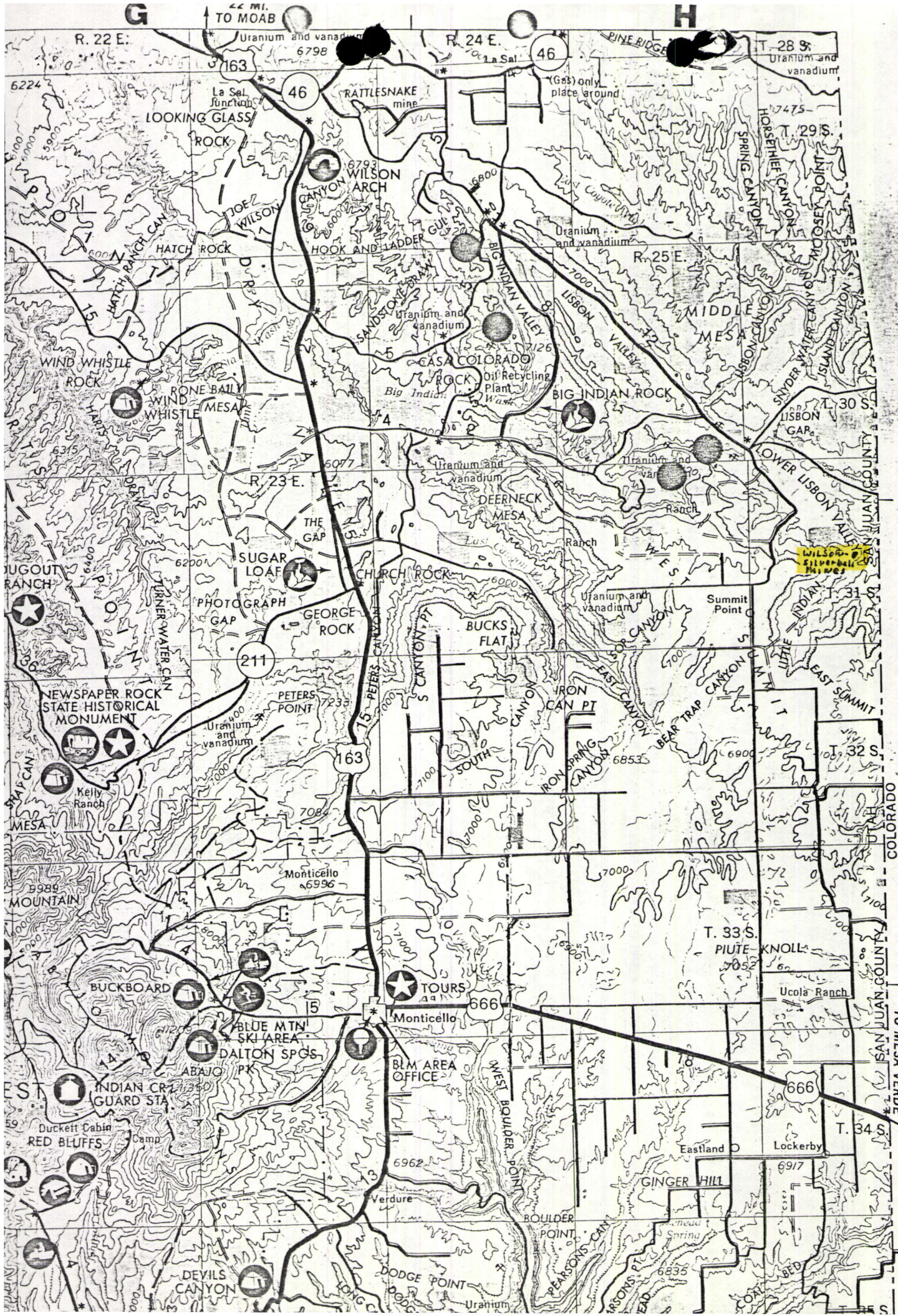
November 17, 1978

Letter from Union Carbide concerning  
evaporation ponds.

November 21, 1978

Executive Summary, Publication and Surety  
prepared by the Division.





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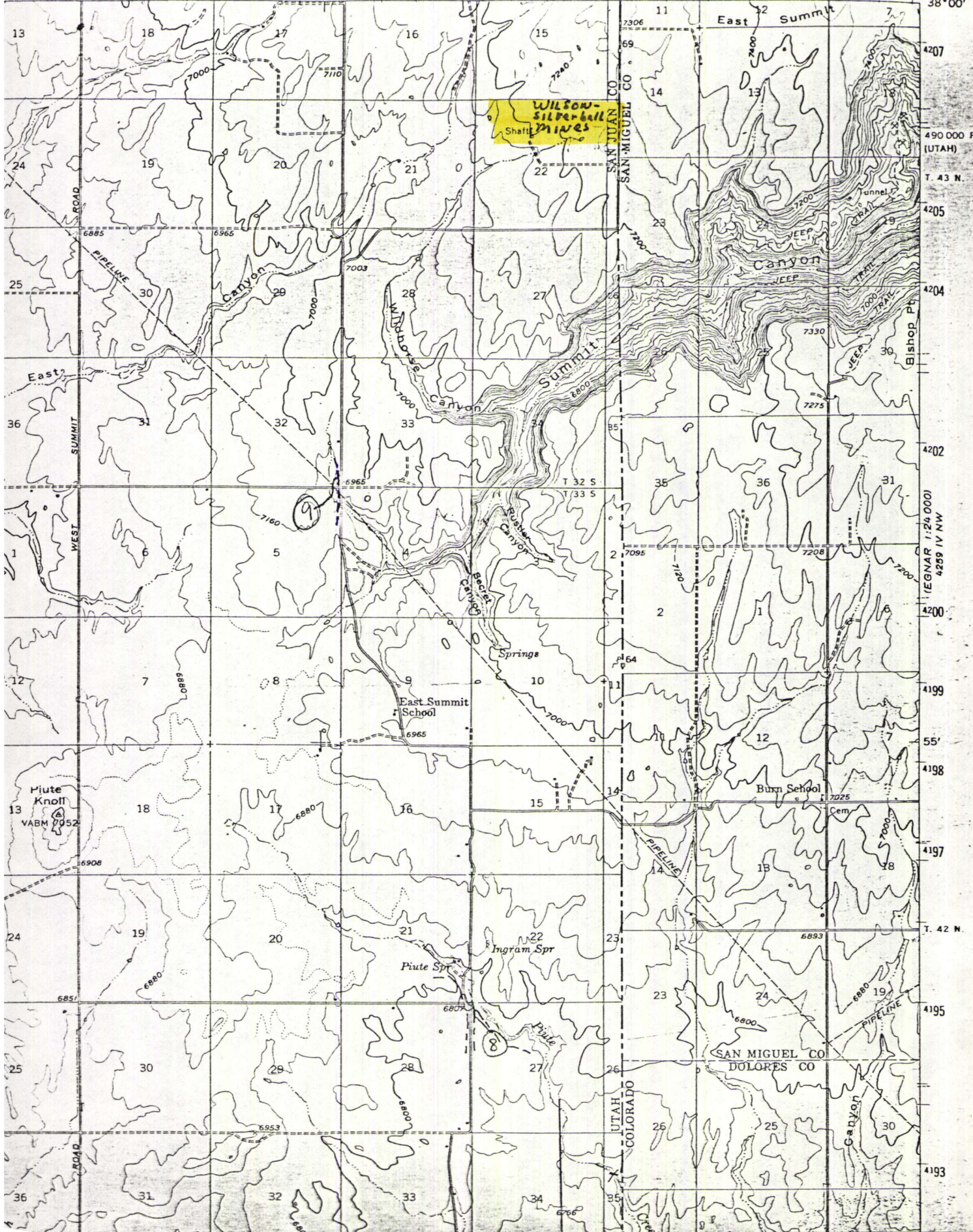
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EASTLAND QUADRANGLE  
UTAH-COLORADO  
15 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

4260 III SW  
HORSE RANGE MESA  
1:24,000

4160 II  
ION VALLEY) 666 667 6685' 669 R 26 E 2710 000 FEET (UTAH) R 20 W 674 R 19 W 109°00' 38°00'



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